

Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction



Friday, December 19, 2008

"Christmas is more than a time of festivities, family and friends; it is a season of generosity, gladness, and gratitude." ~ William Arthur Ward

IDOC raised \$1,070.18 to purchase calling cards and care packages for deployed staff. Central Office, ISP, MCU, MCF, IYC, WCC, SBJ, PNJF, and PEN Products all provided donations, with some given to the Elwood VFW for food baskets.

Westville Correctional Facility PLUS participants donated items, including hand-decorated bags, ornaments, greeting cards, and candy, to the Porter and LaPorte County Meals on Wheels/Wellness Check program.

Camp Summit staff and students contributed \$818.58 for its annual Salvation Army Adopt-a-Family Program. Gifts were presented to the recipients, one of which is a recent Camp Summit graduate now in the National Guard.

For the 5th year, the 17 staff members of the Evansville Parole Office collected canned goods and toys for two local charities: the Tri-State Food Bank and U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots.

Rockville Correctional Facility held its annual HOPE Center Christmas Party. 41 moms who completed the Parenting Program and their 78 children visited with Santa, and Christmas gifts were given to the children by Unchained Ministries.

Miami Correctional Facility delivered more than 840 bags of Ramen Noodles, along with several other food, paper, and hygiene items, from the facility food drive to Helping Hands Food Pantry and the Salvation Army of Peru.

Plainfield Correctional Facility participated in the Toys for Hendricks County Kids Drive and assisted 204 underprivileged children. Staff and businesses donated gifts, which Santa delivered to the local schools.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility staff and offenders presented over \$500 in donations and gifts to the Sullivan County Toys for Tots drive. The Employee Appreciation Committee and offender Fatherhood Program sponsored the event.

Volunteers from the Gospel Echoes ministry of Goshen, IN visited the Indiana State Prison, Pendleton Correctional Facility, and Putnamville Correctional Facility and gave cookies to all offenders at each facility.

The children of Queen of All Saints Catholic Church and St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church donated approximately 600 toys for distribution at the Indiana State Prison to the children visiting with offenders during the holiday.

Christmas Behind Bars Outreach Ministry volunteers gave gift bags to all offenders and staff at Pendleton Correctional.

Branchville Correctional Facility hosted its first annual Kwanzaa Celebration. Over 250 offenders participated in the celebration, which focused on the traditional African values of family, responsibility, commerce, and self improvement.

New Castle Correctional Facility offenders helped staff wrap presents for Westminster's "Shop for a Tot" program.

A troupe of 10 offenders from the Madison Correctional Facility has been spreading holiday cheer by visiting nursing homes. The women sing holiday songs, play games such as the "Reindeer Pokey," and dance with the senior citizens.

The Inside/Out Dads program held its 2nd annual Christmas Party at the Correctional Industrial Facility. There were approximately 105 children, 56 offenders, and 10 volunteers present at the party.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility staff has taken select residents to local nursing homes and retirement communities in the Hendricks County area for Christmas caroling. This program began last year and is successful again.

Indiana Women's Prison staff and offenders of the Sheltered Workshop and Community Outreach Program made and donated 1,400 Christmas stockings to children attending School #14, families of deployed soldiers, and the Julian Center.

60 graduates of the Inside Out Dads Program celebrated an early Christmas with their children during a Christmas Day with Dad event held at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Over 100 family members participated in the event.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner